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### Newly discovered Guthrie essay released by UM j-school

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 29, 2007

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### **NEWLY DISCOVERED GUTHRIE ESSAY RELEASED BY UM J-SCHOOL**

#### **MISSOULA –**

A long-lost essay written by the late A.B. Guthrie Jr. has been published in a limited edition by The University of Montana School of Journalism.

The school is selling 250 hand-bound copies of the essay that are numbered and signed for \$100 each as a fundraiser, primarily for the Guthrie Reading Room in the newly built Don Anderson Hall.

The writing was discovered by Guthrie's niece, Peggy Haugen Bloom, of Missoula, who found the manuscript in papers held by her mother, Jane Haugen. Haugen was Guthrie's younger sister.

The essay, given the title "Occupation Sheepherder" by Guthrie's daughter, Gus Miller of Butte, was prompted by a headstone Guthrie saw near Choteau at the grave of a sheepherder who lost his life in a storm.

In his classic, spare yet evocative prose, Guthrie ruminates on the life of the sheepherder – the mandate to stay with the flock even when his own life is threatened, the sheepherder's isolation and connection to the land and the tendency to go wild in town when not out with the sheep.

Miller provides an engaging forward to the book, discussing her father's writing life

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and the role UM and the journalism school has played in her family's history.

Charlie Hood, former dean of the journalism school and UM professor emeritus, weighs in with remembrances of interviewing Guthrie for his master's thesis, which Hood completed in 1969.

Peggy Kuhr, dean of the School of Journalism, noted that "people interested in Montana history, writing and journalism will be interested in this book."

She said \$90 of each \$100 paid for the limited edition will go to the J-School. The book was printed on a letterpress by Peter Koch, a friend of the Guthrie family who owns Peter Koch, Printers, in Berkeley, Calif.

Guthrie was known for his novel, "The Big Sky," and others that followed, including "The Way West," which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1950. A 1923 graduate of the UM journalism school, Guthrie's worked as a reporter and editor for the Lexington Leader in Kentucky for 30 years. He received an honorary doctorate of literature from UM in 1950.

"Occupation Sheepherder" is available through The Bookstore at UM at 406-243-1234 or online at <http://montanabookstore.com>. For more information, call the journalism school at 406-243-4001.

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